

NKVD

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The **People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs** (Народный комиссариат внутренних дел, *Narodnyy Komissariat Vnutrennikh Del*), abbreviated **NKVD** (НКВД listen[ⓘ]), was a law enforcement agency of the Soviet Union that directly executed the rule of power of the All Union Communist Party. It was closely associated with the Soviet secret police, which at times was part of the agency, and is known for its political repression during the era of Joseph Stalin.

The NKVD contained the regular, public police force of the USSR, including traffic police, firefighting, border guards and archives. It is best known for the activities of the Gulag and the Main Directorate for State Security (GUGB), the predecessor of the KGB. The NKVD conducted mass extrajudicial executions, ran the Gulag system of forced labor camps and suppressed underground resistance, and was also responsible for mass deportations of entire nationalities and Kulaks to unpopulated regions of the country. It was also tasked with protection of Soviet borders and espionage, which included political assassinations abroad, influencing foreign governments and enforcing Stalinist policy within communist movements in other countries.

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NKVD (НКВД) People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs

Народный комиссариат внутренних дел
Narodnyy komissariat vnutrennikh del



NKVD emblem

Agency overview

Formed	1934
Preceding agency	NKVD of the RSFSR
Dissolved	1946
Superseding agency	MVD
Type	Secret police
Jurisdiction	Soviet Union
Headquarters	Lubyanka Square, Moscow
Agency executives	Genrikh Yagoda (1934–1936) Nikolai Yezhov (1936–1938) Lavrentiy Beria (1938–1945)

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Parent agency	Council of the People's Commissars
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History and structure

After the Russian February Revolution of 1917, the Provisional Government dissolved the Tsar's police and created *People's Militsiya*. The subsequent Russian October Revolution of 1917, was a seizure of state power led by Lenin and the Bolsheviks, who established a new Bolshevik regime, the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR), and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) turned into NKVD ("People's" Commissariat of Internal Affairs) under a "People's" Commissar. However, the NKVD apparatus was overwhelmed by duties inherited from MVD, such as the supervision of the local governments and firefighting, and the *Workers' and Peasants' Militsiya* staffed by proletarians was largely inexperienced and unqualified. Realizing that it was left with no capable security force,



Genrikh Yagoda, Vyacheslav Menzhinsky and Felix Dzerzhinsky, 1924

the Council of People's Commissars of the RSFSR created a secret political police, the *Cheka*, led by Felix Dzerzhinsky. It gained the right to undertake quick non-judicial trials and executions, if that was deemed necessary in order to "protect the Russian Socialist-Communist revolution".

The *Cheka* was reorganized in 1922 as the State Political Directorate, or GPU, of the NKVD of the RSFSR.^[1] In 1922, the USSR was formed with the RSFSR as its largest member. The GPU became the OGPU (Joint State Political Directorate), under the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR. The NKVD of the RSFSR retained control of the *militsiya*, and various other responsibilities.

In 1934, the NKVD of the RSFSR was transformed into an all-union security force, the NKVD of the USSR (which the Communist Party of the Soviet Union leaders soon came to call "the leading detachment of our party"), and the OGPU was incorporated into the NKVD as the Main Directorate for State Security (GUGB); the separate NKVD of the RSFSR was not resurrected until 1946 (as the MVD of the RSFSR). As a result, the NKVD also became responsible for all detention facilities (including the forced labor camps, known as the GULag) as well as for the regular police.^[2] Until the reorganization begun by Nikolai Yezhov with a purge of the regional political police in the autumn of 1936 and formalized by a May 1939 directive of the All-Union NKVD by which all appointments to the local political police were controlled from the center, there was frequent tension between centralized control of local units and the collusion of those units with local and regional party elements, frequently resulting in the thwarting of Moscow's plans.^[3]

Since its creation in 1934, the NKVD of the USSR underwent many organizational changes; between 1938 and 1939 alone, the NKVD's structure changed three times.^[4]

On February 3, 1941, the Special Sections of the NKVD responsible for military counterintelligence (CI) became part of the Army and Navy (RKKA and RKKF, respectively). The GUGB was separated from the NKVD and renamed the "People's Commissariat for State Security" (NKGB). After the German invasion, the NKVD and NKGB were reunited on 20 July 1941. The CI sections were returned to the NKVD in January 1942. In April 1943, the CI sections were again transferred to the People's Commissariats (*Narkomat*) of Defense and the Navy, becoming *SMERSH* (from *Smert' Shpionam* or "Death to Spies"); at the same time, the NKVD was again separated from the NKGB.

In 1946, all Soviet Commissariats were renamed "ministries". Accordingly, the NKVD of the USSR was renamed as the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD), while the NKGB was renamed as the Ministry of State Security (MGB). In 1953, after the arrest of Lavrenty Beria, the MGB was merged back into the MVD. The police and security services were finally split in 1954 to become:

- The USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD), responsible for the criminal militia and

correctional facilities.

- The USSR Committee for State Security (KGB), responsible for the political police, intelligence, counter-intelligence, personal protection (of the leadership) and confidential communications.

NKVD activities

The main function of the NKVD was to protect the state security of the Soviet Union. This function was successfully accomplished through massive political repression, including authorized political murders, kidnappings and assassinations, inclusively in its international "secret" operations.

Domestic repressions and executions

In implementing Soviet internal policy towards perceived enemies of the Soviet state ("enemies of the people"), untold multitudes of people were sent to GULAG camps and hundreds of thousands were executed by the NKVD. Formally, most of these people were convicted by NKVD troikas ("triplets")— special courts martial. Evidential standards were very low: a tip-off by an anonymous informer was considered sufficient grounds for arrest. Use of "physical means of persuasion" (torture) was sanctioned by a special decree of the state, which opened the door to numerous abuses, documented in recollections of victims and members of the NKVD itself. Hundreds of mass graves resulting from such operations were later discovered throughout the country. Documented evidence exists that the NKVD committed mass extrajudicial executions, guided by secret "plans". Those plans established the number and proportion of victims (officially "public enemies") in a given region (e.g. the quotas for clergy, former nobles etc., regardless of identity). The families of the repressed, including children, were also automatically repressed according to NKVD Order no. 00486.

The purges were organized in a number of waves according to the decisions of the Politburo of the Communist Party. Some examples are the campaigns among engineers (Shakhty Trial), party and military elite plots (Great Purge with Order 00447), and medical staff ("Doctors' Plot").



Picture of Dzerzhinsky during a parade in 1936



NKVD chief Genrikh Yagoda (middle) inspecting the construction of the Moscow-Volga canal, 1935

A number of mass operations of the NKVD were related to the prosecution of whole ethnic categories. For example, the Polish Operation of the NKVD in 1937–1938 resulted in the execution of 111,091 Poles.^[5] Whole populations of certain ethnicities were forcibly resettled. Foreigners living in the Soviet Union were given particular attention. When disillusioned American citizens living in the Soviet Union thronged the gates of the U.S. embassy in Moscow to plead for new U.S. passports to leave USSR (their original U.S. passports had been taken for 'registration' purposes years before), none were issued. Instead, the NKVD promptly arrested all of the Americans, who were taken to Lubyanka Prison and later shot.^[6] American factory workers at the Soviet Ford GAZ plant, suspected by Stalin of being 'poisoned' by Western influences, were dragged off with the others to Lubyanka by the NKVD in the very same Ford Model A cars they had helped build, where they were tortured; nearly all were executed or died in labor camps. Many of the slain Americans were dumped in the mass grave at Yuzhnoye Butovo District near Moscow.^[7] Even so, the people of the Soviet Republics still formed the majority of NKVD victims[*17][*18].

The NKVD also served as arm of the Russian Soviet communist government for the lethal mass persecution and destruction of ethnic minorities and religious beliefs, such as the Russian Orthodox Church, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, Greek Catholics, Islam, Judaism and other religious organizations, an operation headed by Yevgeny Tuchkov.

International operations, kidnappings, and assassinations

During the 1930s, the NKVD was responsible for political murders of those Stalin believed to oppose him. Espionage networks headed by experienced multilingual NKVD officers such as Pavel Sudoplatov and Iskhak Akhmerov were established in nearly every major Western country, including the United States. The NKVD recruited agents for its espionage efforts from all walks of life, from unemployed intellectuals such as Mark Zborowski to aristocrats such as Martha Dodd. Besides the gathering of intelligence, these networks provided organizational assistance for so-called *wet business*,^[8] where enemies of the USSR either disappeared or were openly liquidated.^[9]



Lavrentiy Beria with Stalin (in background) and Stalin's daughter Svetlana

The NKVD's intelligence and *special operations* (*Inostranny Otdel*) unit organized overseas assassinations of political enemies of the USSR, such as leaders of nationalist movements, former Tsarist officials, and personal rivals of Joseph Stalin. Among the officially confirmed victims of such plots were:

- Leon Trotsky, a personal political enemy of Stalin and his most bitter international critic, killed in Mexico City in 1940;
- Yevhen Konovalets, prominent Ukrainian patriot leader who was attempting to create a separatist movement in Soviet Ukraine; assassinated in Rotterdam, Netherlands
- Yevgeny Miller, former General of the Tsarist (Imperial Russian) Army; in the 1930s, he was responsible for funding anti-communist movements inside the USSR with the support of European governments. Kidnapped in Paris and brought to Moscow, where he was interrogated and executed
- Noe Ramishvili, Prime Minister of independent Georgia, fled to France after the Bolshevik takeover; responsible for funding and coordinating Georgian nationalist organizations and the August Uprising, he was assassinated in Paris
- Boris Savinkov, Russian revolutionary and anti-Bolshevik terrorist (lured back into Russia and killed in 1924 by the Trust Operation of the GPU);
- Sidney Reilly, British agent of the MI6 who deliberately entered Russia in 1925 trying to expose the Trust Operation to avenge Savinkov's death;
- Alexander Kutepov, former General of the Tsarist (Imperial Russian) Army, who was active in organizing anti-communist groups with the support of French and British governments

Prominent political dissidents were also killed found dead under highly suspicious circumstances, including Walter Krivitsky, Lev Sedov, Ignace Reiss and former German Communist Party (KPD) member Willi Münzenberg.^{[10][11][12][13][14]}

The pro-Soviet leader Sheng Shicai in Xinjiang received NKVD assistance in conducting a purge to coincide with Stalin's Great Purge in 1937. Sheng and the Soviets alleged a massive Trotskyist conspiracy and a "Fascist Trotskyite plot" to destroy the Soviet Union. The Soviet Consul General Garegin Apresoff, General Ma Hushan, Ma Shaowu, Mahmud Sijan, the official leader of the Xinjiang province Huang Han-chang and Hoja-Niyaz were among the 435 alleged conspirators in the plot. Xinjiang came under virtual Soviet control. Stalin opposed the Chinese Communist Party.^[15]

Spanish Civil War

During the Spanish Civil War, NKVD agents, acting in conjunction with the Communist Party of Spain, exercised substantial control over the Republican government, using Soviet military aid to help further Soviet influence. The NKVD established numerous secret prisons around the capital Madrid, which were used to detain, torture, and kill hundreds of the NKVD's enemies, at first focusing on Spanish Nationalists and Spanish Catholics, while from late 1938 increasingly anarchists and Trotskyists were the objects of persecution. In June, 1937 Andrés Nin, the secretary of the Trotskyist POUM, was tortured and killed in an NKVD prison.

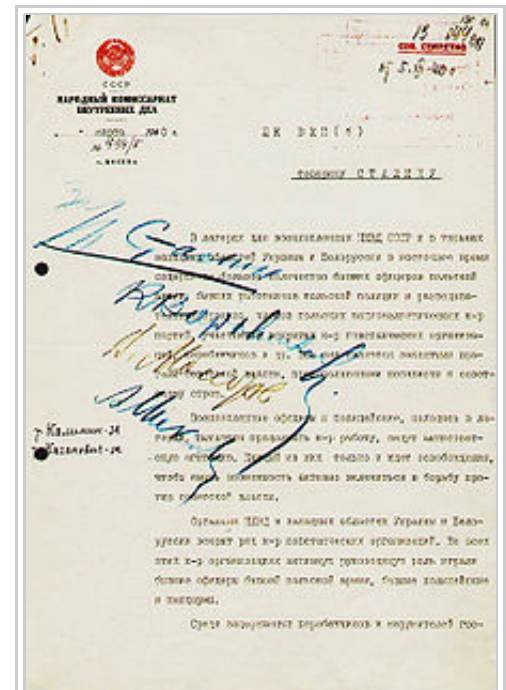
World War II operations

Prior to the German invasion, in order to accomplish its own goals, the NKVD was prepared to cooperate even with such organizations as the German Gestapo. In March 1940 representatives of the NKVD and the Gestapo met for one week in Zakopane, to coordinate the pacification of Poland; *see Gestapo–NKVD Conferences*. For its part, the Soviet Union delivered hundreds of German and Austrian Communists to the Gestapo, as unwanted foreigners, together with their documents. However, many NKVD units were later to fight the Wehrmacht, for example the 10th Rifle Division NKVD, which fought at the Battle of Stalingrad.

During World War II, NKVD Internal Troops units were used for rear area security, including preventing the retreat of Soviet Union army divisions. Though mainly intended for internal security, NKVD divisions were sometimes used at the front to stem the occurrence of desertion through Stalin's Order No. 270 and Order No. 227 decrees in 1941 and 1942, which aimed to raise troop morale via brutality and coercion. At the beginning of the war the NKVD formed 15 rifle divisions, which had expanded by 1945 to 53 divisions and 28 brigades.^[16] A list of identified NKVD Internal Troops divisions can be seen -lines, for example during the Battle of Stalingrad and the breakthrough in Crimea.^[16] Unlike the Waffen-SS, the NKVD did not field any armored or mechanized units.^[16] However, the NKVD was a well armed force.

In the seized/occupied territories, the NKVD (later KGB) carried out mass arrests, deportations, and executions. The targets included both collaborators with Germany and non-Communist resistance movements such as the Polish Armia Krajowa and Ukrainian patriots aiming to separate from the Russian Soviet Union, among others. The NKVD also executed tens of thousands of Polish political prisoners in 1939–1941, including the Katyń massacre.^{[17][18]} NKVD units were also used to repress the prolonged partisan war in Ukraine and the Baltics, which lasted until the early 1950s.

Postwar operations



The first page of Beria's notice (oversigned by Stalin and other high-ranking Politburo members), to kill approximately 25,000 Polish officers and intellectuals in the Katyn Forest and other places in the Soviet Union

After the death of Stalin in 1953, the new Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev halted the NKVD purges. From the 1950s to the 1980s, thousands of victims were legally "rehabilitated" (i.e., acquitted and had their rights restored). Many of the victims and their relatives refused to apply for rehabilitation out of fear or lack of documents. The rehabilitation was not complete: in most cases the formulation was "due to lack of evidence of the case of crime", a Soviet legal jargon that effectively said "there was a crime, but unfortunately we cannot prove it". Only a limited number of persons were rehabilitated with the formulation "cleared of all charges".

Very few NKVD agents were ever officially convicted of the particular violation of anyone's rights. Legally, those agents executed in the 1930s were also "purged" without legitimate criminal investigations and court decisions. In the 1990s and 2000s (decade) a small number of ex-NKVD agents living in the Baltic states were convicted of crimes against the local population.

At present, living former agents retain generous pensions and privileges established by the USSR and later confirmed by all of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. They have not been prosecuted in any way, although some have been identified by their victims.

Intelligence activities

These included:

- Establishment of a widespread spy network through the Comintern.
- Operations of Richard Sorge, the "Red Orchestra", Willi Lehmann, and other agents who provided valuable intelligence during World War II.
- Recruitment of important U.K. officials as agents in the 1940s.
- Penetration of British intelligence (MI6) and counter-intelligence (MI5) services.
- Collection of detailed nuclear weapons design information from the U.S. and Britain.
- Disruption of several confirmed plots to assassinate Stalin.
- Establishment of the People's Republic of Poland and earlier its communist party along with training activists, during World War II. The first President of Poland after the war was Bolesław Bierut, an NKVD agent.

Soviet economy



The corpses of victims of Soviet NKVD murdered in last days of June 1941, just after outbreak of the German-Soviet War (NKVD prisoner massacres)

The extensive system of labor exploitation in the Gulag made a notable contribution to the Soviet economy and the development of remote areas. Colonization of Siberia, the North and Far East was among the explicitly stated goals in the very first laws concerning Soviet labor camps. Mining, construction works (roads, railways, canals, dams, and factories), logging, and other functions of the labor camps were part of the Soviet planned economy, and the NKVD had its own production plans.

The most unusual part of the NKVD's achievements was its role in Soviet science and arms development. Many scientists and engineers arrested for political crimes were placed in special prisons, much more comfortable than the Gulag, colloquially known as *sharashkas*. These prisoners continued their work in these prisons. When later released, some of them became world leaders in science and technology. Among such *sharashka* members were Sergey Korolev, the head designer of the Soviet rocket program and first human space flight mission in 1961, and Andrei Tupolev, the famous airplane designer. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was also imprisoned in a sharashka, and based his novel *The First Circle* on his experiences there.

After World War II, the NKVD coordinated work on Soviet nuclear weaponry, under the direction of General Pavel Sudoplatov. The scientists were not prisoners, but the project was supervised by the NKVD because of its great importance and the corresponding requirement for absolute security and secrecy. Also, the project used information obtained by the NKVD from the United States.

See also

- Mass killings under Communist regimes
- 10th NKVD Division (Soviet Union)
- Hitler Youth Conspiracy, an NKVD case pursued in 1938, later found to be baseless
- NKVD special camps, internment camps set up at the end of World War II in eastern Germany (often in former Nazi POW or concentration camps) and other areas under Soviet domination, to imprison those suspected of collaboration with the Nazis, or others deemed to be troublesome to Soviet ambitions.

Notes

1. Blank Pages by G.C.Malcher ISBN 1-897984-00-6 Page 7

2. At various times, the NKVD had the following Chief Directorates, abbreviated as "ГУ"– Главное управление, *Glavnoye upravleniye*.
- ГУГБ – государственной безопасности, of State Security (GUGB, *Glavnoye upravleniye gosudarstvennoi bezopasnosti*)
 - ГУРКМ– рабоче-крестьянской милиции, of Workers and Peasants *Militsiya* (GURKM, *Glavnoye upravleniye raboche-krest'yanskoi militsyi*)
 - ГУПВО– пограничной и внутренней охраны, of Border and Internal Guards (GUPVO, *GU pograničnoi i vnytrennei okhrany*)
 - ГУПО– пожарной охраны, of Fire Guards (GUPO, *GU požarnoi okhrany*)
 - ГУШосДор– шоссейных дорог, of HighWays (GUŠD, *GU šosseynykh dorog*)
 - ГУЖД– железных дорог, of RailWays (GUŽD, *GU železnykh dorog*)
 - ГУЛаг– Главное управление исправительно-трудовых лагерей и колоний, (GULag, *Glavnoye upravleniye ispravitelno-trudovykh lagerey i kolonii*)
 - ГЭУ – экономическое, of Economics (GEU, *Glavnoye ekonomičeskoie upravleniye*)
 - ГТУ – транспортное, of Transport (GTU, *Glavnoye transportnoie upravleniye*)
 - ГУВПИ – военнопленных и интернированных, of POWs and interned persons (GUVPI, *Glavnoye upravleniye voyennoplennikh i internirovannikh*)

3. James Harris, "Dual subordination ? The political police and the party in the Urals region, 1918–1953 (http://www.cairn.info/article.php?ID_ARTICLE=CMR_422_0423)", *Cahiers du monde russe* 22 (2001):423–446.

4. NKVD Organization in 1939

NKVD management

- People's Commissar for Internal Affairs– Lavrenty Beria
 - First Deputy and the head of Main Directorate of State Security (GUGB)– Vsevolod Merkulov

Deputies

- for NKVD troops– Ivan Maslenikov
- for *Militsiya*– Vasyli Chernyshov
- for Staff– Sergei Kruglov

Secretariats

- NKVD Secretariat– Stepan Mamulov
- Secretariat of Special Council of the NKVD– Vladimir Ivanov
- Special Technical Bureau– Valentin Kravchenko
- Special Bureau– Pyotr Scharia
- NKVD Inspection Group– Nikolai Pavlov
- Special Plenipotentiary– Aleksei Stefanov
- Secretariat of the First Deputy for GUGB Task– Vsevolod Merkulov
- Inspection Group– Vsevolod Merkulov
- Special Secretariat– Vasyli Chernyshov
- Section for Organization of Labor Force– Vsevolod Merkulov
- Permanent Technical Committee– ?
- Section for Repair Work– Pyotr Vainschtein
- Supply Section– M. Mituschyn
- Department of Railroad Transportation and Water– ?

Directorates and departments

- Main Directorate of State Security (GUGB)– Vsevolod Merkulov
 - 1st Special Department– Leonid Baschtakov
 - 2nd Special Department– Evgeny Lapishin
 - 3rd Special Department– Dmitry Shadrin
 - 4th Special Department– Mikhail Filimonov
 - 5th Special Department– Vladimir Vladimirov
 - Department of Mobilization– Ivan Scherediega
 - Department of Staff– Sergei Kruglov
 - The Chief Directorate of Economics (GEU)– Bogdan Kobulov
 - The Chief Directorate of Transportation (GTU)– Solomon Milshtein
 - The Chief Directorate of Prison (GTU)– Aleksandr Galkin
 - The Chief Directorate of Administration (AČU)– J.Schumbatov
 - The Chief Directorate of Archive (GAU)– Yosif Nikitynsky
 - The Chief Directorate of fire guards (GUPO)– Nikolay Istomin
 - The Chief Directorate of *Militsiya* (GURKM)– Pavel Zujev
 - The Chief Directorate [or Administration] of Corrective Labour Camps and Colonies (GULAG)– Vasyli Chernyshov
 - The Chief Directorate of Highways (GUŠOSDOR)– Vsevolod Fedotov
 - Directorate of Kremlin Commander– Nikolai Spyrydonov
 - The Chief Directorate of Border Troops (GUPW)– Grigori Sokolov
 - The Chief Directorate of NKVD Troops for Railroad Protection– Aleksandr Guliev
 - The Chief Directorate of NKVD Troops for Escort– Vladimir Sharapov
 - The Chief Directorate of NKVD Troops for Protection of Industrial Enterprise– I. Kozik
 - The Chief Directorate of NKVD Operative Troops– P. Ariemyev
 - The Chief Directorate of Military Provision– Aleksandr Wurgaft
 - The Chief Directorate of Military Construction– Ivan Luby
 - Directorate for Prisoners of War– Pyotr Soprunienko
 - Directorate for Construction in the Far East– Ivan Nikishev
 - Main Financial Department– Lazar Bierienzon
 - Main Department for Civil Status– Fyedor Sokolov
5. Goldman, Wendy Z. (2011). *Inventing the Enemy: Denunciation and Terror in Stalin's Russia*. (https://books.google.com/books?id=D0_HYK8R-8IC&pg=PA217) New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-0-521-19196-8. p. 217.
 6. Tzouliadis, Tim, *The Forsaken: An American Tragedy in Stalin's Russia* Penguin Press (2008), ISBN 1-59420-168-4: Many of the Americans desiring to return home were communists who had voluntarily moved to the Soviet Union, while others moved to Soviet Union as skilled auto workers to help produce cars at the recently constructed GAZ automobile factory built by the Ford Motor Company. All were U.S. citizens.
 7. Tzouliadis, Tim, *The Forsaken: An American Tragedy in Stalin's Russia* Penguin Press (2008), ISBN 1-59420-168-4
 8. Barmine, Alexander, *One Who Survived*, New York: G.P. Putnam (1945), p. 18: NKVD expression for a political murder
 9. John Earl Haynes and Harvey Klehr, *Venona: Decoding Soviet Espionage in America*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999)
 10. Barmine, Alexander, *One Who Survived*, New York: G.P. Putnam (1945), pp. 232–233
 11. Orlov, Alexander, *The March of Time*, St. Ermin's Press (2004), ISBN 1-903608-05-8

12. Andrew, Christopher and Mitrokhin, Vasili, *The Sword and the Shield: The Mitrokhin Archive and the Secret History of the KGB*, Basic Books (2000), ISBN 0-465-00312-5, ISBN 978-0-465-00312-9, p. 75
13. Barmine, Alexander, *One Who Survived*, New York: G. P. Putnam (1945), pp. 17, 22
14. Sean McMeekin, *The Red Millionaire: A Political Biography of Willi Münzenberg, Moscow's Secret Propaganda Tsar in the West, 1917–1940*, New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press (2004), pp. 304–305
15. Andrew D. W. Forbes (1986). *Warlords and Muslims in Chinese Central Asia: a political history of Republican Sinkiang 1911–1949*. Cambridge, England: CUP Archive. p. 151. ISBN 0-521-25514-7. Retrieved 2010-12-31.
16. Zaloga, Steven J. *The Red Army of the Great Patriotic War, 1941–45*, Osprey Publishing, (1989), pp. 21–22
17. Edvins Snore (2008). *History Documentary film: The Soviet Story* (PDF). Riga, Latvia: SIA Labvakar. Retrieved Premiere: European Parliament on April 2008, (DVD editions released in 2009 and 2010), Distribution company: Perry Street Advisors LLC, New York. Check date values in: |access-date= (help)
18. Red Square (2014). *History Documentary – A Must See For All Students Of History*. The Peoples Cube. Retrieved 2014-03-11.

External links

- For evidence on Soviet espionage in the United States during the Cold War, see the full text of Alexander Vassiliev's Notebooks from the Cold War International History Project (CWIHP) (<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/alexander-vassilievs-notebooks-and-the-documentation-soviet-intelligence-operations-the-unit-0>)
- NKVD.org: information site about the NKVD (<http://www.nkvd.org/>)
- **(Russian)** MVD: 200-year history of the Ministry (<http://www.mvdinform.ru/index.php?docid=361>)
- **(Russian)** Memorial: history of the OGPU/NKVD/MGB/KGB (<http://www.memo.ru/history/nkvdfram.htm>)



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